Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A device for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising

a body portion defining a longitudinal central axis and including a first end and a second end, the second end including a pointed end portion; and

a plurality of openings each defining a passage through the body portion orthogonal to the longitudinal central axis which allow for the threading of suture,

wherein one of the passages is formed partially in the body portion and partially in the pointed end portion.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the body portion is substantially cylindrical.

3. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the pointed end portion is conical in shape.

4.-7 (Canceled)

8. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of passages are substantially parallel.

9. (Currently amended) A device for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising

a cylindrical body defining a longitudinal central axis and a pointed end portion having a central axis which is coincident with the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body,

a first opening defining a first passage ~~through the cylindrical body~~ formed partially through the cylindrical body and partially through the pointed end portion in a direction

transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body, and

a second opening defining a second passage through the cylindrical body in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body.

10. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the first passage and the second passage are substantially parallel.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the pointed end portion forms an opening in the body tissue in the patient's body when a force is applied against a trailing end of the cylindrical body in a direction extending along the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the cylindrical body is made of bone.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 12, wherein the bone is allogenic bone.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 12, wherein the bone is autogenic bone.

15. (Original) The device according to claim 12, wherein the bone is xenogenic bone.

16. (Original) The device according to claim 12, wherein the bone is cortical bone.

17. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the cylindrical body is formed of a single piece of freeze dried bone.

18. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the cylindrical body is made of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal alloy, biodegradable material, and

bioerodible material.

19. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the body tissue is soft tissue.

20. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the body tissue is bone.

21. (Original) A device for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising

a cylindrical body defining a longitudinal central axis and including a substantially conical end portion having a central axis which is coincident with the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body, wherein the cylindrical body is made of bone;

a first opening defining a first passage through the cylindrical body in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body; and

a second opening defining a second passage through the cylindrical body substantially parallel to the first opening, wherein the conical end portion forms an opening in the body tissue in the patient's body when a force is applied against a trailing end of the cylindrical body in a direction extending along the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A system for securing tissue comprising:

the device according to claim 9;

a suture connected to the device under tension and extending through the first and second passages; and

a retainer connected to the suture for maintaining the tension in the suture.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 24, wherein the retainer is made of a material that becomes flowable when ultrasonic vibratory energy is applied.